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54 Process for removing NOX and SOX from a gaseous mixture.

57 A combination gas denitrogenation and desulfurization process is provided in which a gaseous mixture comprising NO_x, SO_x and O₂ is reacted with excess NH₃ to reduce the NO_x to N₂ and the resulting gaseous effluent comprising the unreacted ammonia and SO_x is passed to a gas desulfurization zone to form an ammonium salt of an acid of sulfur which can be recovered and used as such or converted to elemental sulfur.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a process for removing nitrogen oxides and sulfur oxides from gaseous mixtures.

2. Description of Information Disclosures

It is known to use ammonia or ammonia precursors to remove nitrogen oxides and sulfur oxides from gaseous mixtures, such as combustion effluents.

U.S. Patent No. 4,288,420 discloses a process for removing nitrogen oxides and sulfur oxides from a flue gas by reaction in the presence of a catalyst, with excess ammonia to reduce the nitrogen oxides and form ammonium sulfate which is collected with the coal ash particles. The gas leaving the collector passes to a desulfurization unit. The coal ash particles containing ammonium sulfate are heated to release some of their contained ammonia for recycle to the NO_x removal step.

U.S. Patent No. 4,400,363 discloses first removing SO_x and thereafter removing NO_x from flue gases by reaction with ammonia. See column 3, line 45 to column 4, line 3. The NO_x removal reaction is catalytic.

U.S. Patent No. 4,272,497 discloses simultaneously removing NO_x and SO_x from waste gases by reacting the gases with ammonia as shown in Figure 5. The NO_x removal reaction is catalytic. In catalytic deNO_x reaction processes, such as those of U.S. Patent No. 4,400,363 and U.S. Patent No. 4,272,497, the excess ammonia for the deNO_x reaction could not be usefully employed for the SO_x removal stage.

U.S. Patent No. 4,051,225 discloses a process in which flue gas is treated, catalytically or non-catalytically, with ammonia to remove NO_x and SO_x to produce nitrogen and ammonium hydrogen sulfate. The molar ratio of ammonia to SO_3 and the steam concentrations are maintained within specified amounts, thereby severely limiting the amount of excess ammonia available for the deNO_x step. Such a process has a high steam requirement which also results in a high water content in the treated flue gas.

U.S. Patent No. 3,900,554 discloses a method for removing NO from a combustion gas in the presence of oxygen by reaction with ammonia. Although the reaction can be conducted with as little as 0.4 mole NH_3 per mole NO, if it is desired to reduce less than 100% of the NO present in the gas, it is preferred to use a higher mole ratio of ammonia per mole NO and thereby provide an excess amount of ammonia to obtain better results. After the reaction, the excess ammonia must be removed or utilized. See also U.S. Patent No. 4,507,269.

U.S. Patent No. 4,029,752 discloses a method for removing sulfur oxides from gaseous mixtures utilizing ammonia to produce elemental sulfur. The gaseous mixture containing sulfur oxides are reacted first with ammonia to form ammonium salts, such as ammonium sulfate or ammonium sulfite, and subsequently the recovered ammonium salts are decomposed at elevated temperatures to form elemental sulfur.

It has now been found that the excess ammonia advantageously employed in the gas denitrogenation process, such as the process described in U.S. Patent No. 3,900,554 and U.S. Patent No. 4,507,269 and remaining in the gaseous effluent of the denitrogenation step, may advantageously be utilized to provide the ammonia required in the gas desulfurization, either for the production of ammonium sulfate or for the production of elemental sulfur, such as the process described in U.S. Patent No. 4,029,752, and thereby decrease the amount of extraneous ammonia for the desulfurization process by combining the denitrogenation process and the desulfurization process in a specified manner. This integration also permits the use of high excesses of NH_3 in the denitrogenation step, thereby increasing the NO_x reduction without causing the emission of a large amount of NH_3 to the atmosphere.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with the invention, there is provided a combination denitrogenation and desulfurization process which comprises the steps of: (a) contacting a gaseous mixture comprising nitrogen oxides

and sulfur oxides in the presence of oxygen and in the absence of a catalyst, with ammonia in a molar amount equal to the sum of about 1.0 to about 3.0 times the moles of said nitrogen oxides plus about 0.01 to about 2.0 times the moles of said sulfur oxides to reduce said nitrogen oxides to nitrogen, at a temperature ranging from about 1300 to about 2200°F; (b) passing the gaseous effluent resulting from step (a) comprising said nitrogen, said sulfur oxides and unreacted ammonia to a gas desulfurization zone maintained at desulfurization conditions, including a temperature ranging from about 100 to about 400°F to react said sulfur oxides with, if necessary, additionally added ammonia at a molar ratio of at least 1 mole of ammonia per mole of said sulfur oxides to produce a gaseous effluent and an ammonium salt of an acid of sulfur; and (c) recovering said ammonium salt. The total moles of ammonia added to the process, both for nitrogen oxides removal and sulfur oxides removal, will range from about 1.0 to 2.5 times the sum of the total number of moles of said nitrogen oxides and sulfur oxides.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

The gaseous mixture of which the content of one or more types of nitrogen oxides (hereinafter designated NO_x) and one or more types of sulfur oxides (hereinafter designated SO_x) can be decreased with the process of the present invention include exhaust gases from internal combustion engines either stationary or mobile, tail gases from nitric acid plants or chemical nitration operations, exhaust gases from combustion of fossil fuels in power plants, industrial boilers, etc. Preferably, the gaseous mixture is a combustion efflu-

ent, i.e., an effluent derived from a combustion process. The exhaust gases may comprise from about 20 vppm to about 1 volume percent NO_x and from about 0.005 to about 5 volume percent sulfur oxides. When the exhaust gas is derived from a combustion process, the gas may comprise from above 0 to about 20 volume percent O_2 , typically from 0.1 to 6 volume percent O_2 .

A gaseous mixture of the type described above, for example, a combustion effluent comprising one or more types of nitrogen oxides and one or more types of sulfur oxides is contacted, in the presence of oxygen, and in the absence of a catalyst, with a reducing agent at conditions to reduce the nitrogen oxides selectively to N_2 . In accordance with the present invention, an excess amount of ammonia or ammonia precursor such as ammonium hydroxide, ammonium formate, ammonium oxalate, ammonium carbonate and aqueous solutions thereof will be used. By "excess amount" is intended herein a molar ratio of ammonia to NO_x greater (i.e., in excess) than the molar ratio required to reduce all the NO_x present in the gaseous mixture being treated to N_2 . The stoichiometric NH_3/NO_x ratio is 1/1. Suitable molar amounts of ammonia may be equal to the sum of about 1.0 to 3.0 times the number of moles of NO_x plus about 0.01 to 2.0 times the number of moles of SO_x present in the gaseous mixture being treated, typically from the sum of about the moles of NO_x plus 0.02 times the moles of sulfur oxides to the sum of 2.5 times the moles of nitrogen oxides plus the moles of sulfur oxides. The excess amount of ammonia which may be used will depend to a large extent on the NO_x to SO_x mole ratio in the gas to be treated. For example, when this ratio is 1/3, and it is desired to remove the SO_x

as the ammonium sulfite/sulfate salt, 2 moles of NH_3 per mole of SO_x will be required for the SO_x removal. Since, in this example, the NO_x/SO_x ratio in the gas is 1/3, and the stoichiometric NH_3/NO_x ratio is 1/1, the excess amount of NH_3 which can be usefully employed in the SO_x removal step is 6 moles of NH_3 /mole NO_x , indicating that a NH_3/NO_x ratio in the feed gas of 7 can be employed in both the NO_x and SO_x removal steps. In general, the total moles of ammonia added to the process, both for nitrogen oxides removal and sulfur oxides removal, will range from about 1.0 to 2.5 times the sum of the total number of moles of said nitrogen oxides and said sulfur oxides. However, as will be described subsequently, it may be advantageous not to add all the stoichiometrically required NH_3 for the SO_x removal step as excess amount of NH_3 in the feed gas to the NO_x removal step since there may be some undesired thermal decomposition of a fraction of this ammonia during the deNO_x step, as well as some NH_3 oxidation. Therefore, the excess amount of NH_3 added to the raw feed gas to the deNO_x step is limited to the marginal optimum excess amount, defined as the excess amount above which no improvement in the degree of denitrogenation is achieved. This marginal optimum excess amount of NH_3 is in the range of about 0.1 NH_3/NO_x mole ratio to about 5.0, typically 1.0 to 3.0.

While excess amounts of NH_3 above this marginal optimum amount can effectively be used up in the SO_x removal step, their presence does not significantly improve the NO_x removal efficiency and may lead to potentially excessive NH_3 loss due to thermal and oxidative decomposition. Therefore, if the NO_x/SO_x ratio is such that the required NH_3 for the SO_x removal

would indicate a tolerable excess amount of NH_3 of 5/1, NH_3/NO_x mole ratio, i.e., a 6/1 NH_3/NO_x ratio in the feed gas to the deNO_x step and if the marginal optimum excess amount is only 1/1, then it is preferred to operate as closely as possible to an excess amount of 1/1, i.e., have an NH_3/NO_x mole ratio of 2/1 in the feed to the deNO_x step, but add the additional NH_3 prior to the deSO_x step, so that the temperatures will be lower and the NH_3 losses due to thermal and oxidative decomposition will be minimized. To reduce all the NO_x present in the gas to N_2 , at least 1 mole NH_3 per mole NO_x is required. The ammonia may be derived from a suitable precursor. The NO_x reduction step may be conducted at a temperature ranging from about 1300 to about 2200°F. When ammonia alone is used as reducing agent, the preferred temperature may range from 1600 to 2200°. When ammonia is used with an additional reducing agent, such as hydrogen, a temperature ranging from about 1300 to about 1600°F may be used. Suitable amounts of molecular oxygen in the NO_x reduction step include at least about 0.1 volume percent, preferably a range from about 0.1 to 20 volume percent, typically from 0.1 to 6 volume percent based on the gaseous mixture to be treated. The molecular oxygen may be present in the gas to be treated such as in combustion effluents or a suitable amount of oxygen may be added to give the desired amount. Suitable additional reducing agents include paraffins, olefins, aromatic hydrocarbons, oxygenated hydrocarbons, nitrogenated hydrocarbons, sulfonated hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide and hydrogen. Hydrogen is the preferred additional reducing agent suitably added at a hydrogen to ammonia molar ratio of less than 10, preferably less than 3. However, it should be noted that compared to a stand-alone

(i.e., non-integrated) deNO_x process, there is less need for the use of an additional reducing agent in the integrated deNO_x/deSO_x process of the present invention because the excess ammonia can be used advantageously to reduce the amount of an additional reducing agent, since the combined operation disposes of the excess NH₃ which is presently unused in the effluent of the deNO_x step. It should be noted, however, that the ability to use higher molar ratios of NH₃/NO_x than in stand-alone deNO_x processes also permits the use of wider ratios of additional reducing agents to ammonia than would be possible in stand-alone operations. The pressure during the NO_x reduction step may range from 0.1 atmosphere to 100 atmospheres. The residence time of the reaction of the NO_x and SO_x-containing feed gas with the ammonia may range from 0.001 to 10 seconds. Contact of the feed gas with the ammonia (or ammonia precursor) at the NO_x reduction conditions produces a gaseous effluent comprising unreacted ammonia, sulfur oxides, nitrogen and H₂O.

At least a portion of the entire NO_x reduction zone gaseous effluent is passed to a desulfurization zone in which the sulfur oxides present in the gaseous effluent react with the unreacted ammonia to form an ammonium salt which may be ammonium sulfite, ammonium sulfate, ammonium bisulfite, ammonium bisulfate, and mixtures. The treated gas is removed from the desulfurization zone and may be vented to the atmosphere. Supplemental ammonia may be added to the desulfurization zone during the desulfurization stage to provide (unreacted + supplemental) a total amount ranging from about 1.0 to about 2.0 moles ammonia per mole SO_x. Suitable conditions in the desulfurization

zone include a temperature ranging from about 100 to about 400°F, preferably from about 100 to about 200°F, a pressure ranging from about 0.1 atmosphere to about 100 atmospheres, and a residence time ranging from about 0.1 to about 60 seconds. The reaction of the sulfur oxides with the ammonia at these conditions result in the formation of ammonium salts of inorganic acids of sulfur.

The ammonium salts are separated from the gas stream either as solids or in aqueous liquid medium, or as a slurry mixture of solids and liquid. When the ammonium salts are in an aqueous medium, it may be desirable to remove a substantial portion of the water associated with the ammonium salts. The ammonium salts may be recovered and used as such for further use or the recovered salts may be decomposed to form elemental sulfur.

When the ammonium salts are to be recovered as such for use, for example, as fertilizer or as a component of a fertilizer composition, it may be desirable to convert any ammonium sulfite that may be present in the recovered ammonium salts to ammonium sulfate by oxidation in a conventional way such as, for example, by air blowing of the salt solution.

When it is desired to produce elemental sulfur, the ammonia to SO_x mole ratio in the separated ammonium salts should be at least equal to the stoichiometric quantity for conversion of the chemically combined sulfur in the separated ammonium salts to elemental sulfur, for example, a mole ratio of at least $4/3$ when all the sulfur in the salts is present as

sulfite. When all the sulfur in the separated salts is present as sulfate, the stoichiometric ratio is 2/1. The decomposition of the ammonium salts to elemental sulfur may be performed according to any known method. A method is described in U.S. Patent No. 4,029,752, the teachings of which are hereby incorporated by reference, in which the ammonium salts are decomposed by high temperature oxidation-reduction reaction into a mixture comprising elemental nitrogen and elemental sulfur in one or two steps. In the one step method, the ammonium salts are introduced into a high temperature reaction zone maintained at a temperature of 500 to 3000°F, preferably 900 to 1500°F and, optionally, in the presence of a catalyst. When the decomposition of the ammonium salts to elemental sulfur is thermal, a preferred decomposition temperature is above 1200°F, more preferably from about 1500 to about 3000°F. When the decomposition of the ammonium salts to elemental sulfur is performed in the presence of a conventional catalyst, the decomposition temperature may range preferably from about 500 to about 2000°F, more preferably from about 900 to about 1500°F. Alternatively, the ammonia salts may be decomposed in two steps by first decomposing the ammonium salts thermally at a temperature ranging from 225°F to 800°F into a gaseous mixture comprising ammonia, sulfur oxides (SO_2 and SO_3) and water vapor. The gas mixture resulting from the first step, if desired after removal of water vapor, is subsequently introduced into a high temperature reaction zone where the ammonia reacts with the sulfur oxides at a temperature ranging from 500 to 3000°F to form a reaction product comprising nitrogen and elemental sulfur.

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Because it is difficult to accurately simulate, on a laboratory scale, the temperature-time history of combustion effluents as they pass through a combustion apparatus, it is necessary to generate examples by means other than laboratory experiments. Complex chemical reactions occur by a series of elementary reaction steps, and if one knows the rate constants for such steps, a theoretical kinetic mechanism can be developed and verified through comparison with experimental data. An extensive block of kinetic data previously was developed by use of apparatus similar to the apparatus taught in U.S. 3,900,554 and used to determine which elementary reactions would likely be of significance during the reduction of NO by NH₃. For many of the reactions, the rate constants were well-known, accurately measured constants of nature. For the remaining reactions, the rate constants were not accurately known and, accordingly, were taken as adjustable parameters, i.e., values for the unknown rate constants were assumed, the reaction kinetics to be expected from these rate constants were calculated and compared with the observed kinetics. Based on this comparison, a new set of rate constants were assumed, etc., until satisfactory agreement between calculation and experimentation were finally obtained. The rate constants for each reaction are set forth in Table I.

TABLE I

KINETIC MODEL
 Rate Constant $K = AT^n \exp [-E/(1.98)T]$
 M = Any Other Compound
 T = Temperature, °K

Reaction	A	N	E
1 $\text{NH}_3 + \text{O} = \text{NH}_2 + \text{H}_2$	.246E+14	0.0	17071.
2 $\text{NH}_3 + \text{O} = \text{NH}_2 + \text{OH}$	.150E+13	0.0	6040.
3 $\text{NH}_3 + \text{OH} = \text{NH}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O}$	.326E+13	0.0	2120.
4 $\text{HNO} + \text{M} = \text{NO} + \text{H} + \text{M}$	.186E+17	0.0	48680.
5 $\text{HNO} + \text{OH} = \text{NO} + \text{H}_2\text{O}$	.360E+14	0.0	0.
6 $\text{NH}_2 + \text{HNO} = \text{NH}_3 + \text{NO}$	.175E+15	0.0	1000.
7 $\text{NH}_2 + \text{NO} = \text{NNH} + \text{OH}$	.610E+20	-2.46	1866.
8 $\text{NH}_2 + \text{O}_2 = \text{HNO} + \text{OH}$	.510E+14	0.0	30000.
9 $\text{NNH} + \text{NH}_2 = \text{N}_2 + \text{NH}_3$	.100E+14	0.0	0.
10 $\text{NH}_2 + \text{O} = \text{NH} + \text{OH}$	.170E+14	0.0	1000.
11 $\text{NH}_2 + \text{OH} = \text{NH} + \text{H}_2\text{O}$	.549E+11	0.68	1290.
12 $\text{NH}_2 + \text{H} = \text{NH} + \text{H}_2$	.500E+12	0.5	2000.
13 $\text{NH} + \text{O}_2 = \text{NHO} + \text{O}$	.300E+14	0.0	3400.
14 $\text{H}_2 + \text{O} = \text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{H}$	.220E+14	0.0	5150.
15 $\text{H} + \text{O}_2 = \text{OH} + \text{O}$	.220E+15	0.0	16800.
16 $\text{O} + \text{H}_2 = \text{OH} + \text{OH}$	.180E+11	1.0	8900.
17 $\text{H} + \text{HO}_2 = \text{OH} + \text{OH}$	.180E+11	0.0	1900.
18 $\text{O} + \text{HO}_2 = \text{O}_2 + \text{OH}$	.250E+15	0.0	1000.
19 $\text{OH} + \text{HO}_2 = \text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{O}_2$	.480E+15	0.0	1000.
20 $\text{OH} + \text{OH} = \text{O} + \text{H}_2\text{O}$	.500E+14	0.0	1090.
21 $\text{HO}_2 + \text{NO} = \text{NO}_2 + \text{OH}$	.630E+13	0.0	-260.
22 $\text{H} + \text{NO}_2 = \text{NO} + \text{OH}$	.350E+15	0.0	1500.
23 $\text{O} + \text{NO}_2 = \text{NO} + \text{O}_2$	.100E+14	0.0	600.
24 $\text{H} + \text{O}_2 + \text{M} = \text{HO}_2 + \text{M}$	.150E+16	0.0	-995.
$\text{H}_2\text{O}/21^{**}$			
25 $\text{NNH} + \text{M} = \text{N}_2 + \text{H} + \text{M}$	.200E+15	0.0	30000.
26 $\text{NO}_2 + \text{M} = \text{NO} + \text{O} + \text{M}$	.110E+17	0.0	66000.
27 $\text{NH}_3 + \text{M} = \text{NH} + \text{H} + \text{M}$	.480E+17	0.0	93929.
28 $\text{O} + \text{O} + \text{M} = \text{O}_2 + \text{M}$	.138E+19	-1.0	340.
29 $\text{NH}_3 + \text{NO} = \text{N}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O}$	.910E+20	-2.46	1866.
30 $\text{NNH} + \text{OH} = \text{N}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O}$	.300E+14	0.0	0.
31 $\text{NNH} + \text{NO} = \text{N}_2 + \text{HNO}$	.906E+12	0.0	0.

**i.e., $A = 21 \times .15\text{E}+16$ for H_2O as "third body". The "third body" may be any other constituent present.

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In the practice of the present invention the content of NO, O₂, and H₂O in the effluent stream to be treated is measured or estimated. These initial conditions, as well as measurements or estimates of temperatures in the range of about 1100°K to about 1500°K are used in conjunction with the kinetic model hereof with appropriate software to determine the amount of ammonia and an injection point which will give the desired NO reduction. Appropriate software suitable for use herein would be any computer program designed for numerical integration of chemical rate expressions. A non-limiting example of such software is CHEMKIN; A General-Purpose, Problem-Independent, Transportable, Fortran Chemical Kinetics Code Package; R. J. Kee, J. A. Miller, and T. H. Jefferson, an unlimited released Sandia National Laboratory Report SAND80-8003 (1980). This report is also available through the National Technical Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce.

EXAMPLE OF USE OF KINETIC MODEL

To illustrate the practice of the present invention, the following paper example is presented.

The flue gas conditions of the paper example are typical of combustion products from a boiler firing a medium sulfur-containing coal. For such processes, it is generally desirable to achieve high deNO_x rates with less than 10 vppm residual NH₃ in the flue gas. As can be seen from Table II, the deNO_x rate to maintain less than 10 vppm residual NH₃ is calculated to be a low value of less than 40%. However, if the residual NH₃ can be increased to approximately 150 vppm, then

the deNO_x rate of greater than 90%, is expected to be achieved. In this case, a residual NH_3 concentration of at least 1400 vppm (equal to the SO_2 concentration) could be used since an NH_3 -based deSO_x process downstream will consume the excess NH_3 .

It should also be noted that Table II shows that it is desirable to add the bulk of the excess NH_3 just upstream of the deSO_x process where the flue gas is colder to conserve consumption of NH_3 . As shown by the calculated results for $\text{NH}_3/\text{NO}_x = 2.5$ and 3.0, there is an increase in the NH_3 injection rate of 200 vppm, but the NH_3 residual increases only 190 vppm (from 497.5 to 687.5 vppm). Under these two conditions, the NO_x reduction remains essentially constant.

Accordingly, the amount of ammonia which should be injected for NO_x removal purposes should be between 2.5 and 3.0 times the NO_{xi} concentration of 400 vppm, or between 1000 and 1200 vppm. This amount is, as previously specified, between the sum of the moles of NO_x (i.e., $1 \times 400 = 400$ vppm), plus 0.02 times the moles of SO_x ($0.02 \times 1800 = 36$ vppm), or 436 vppm, and the sum of 2.5 times the moles of NO_x ($2.5 \times 400 = 1000$ vppm), plus the moles of SO_x ($1 \times 1800 = 1800$ vppm), or 2800 vppm. When a $\text{NH}_3/\text{NO}_{xi}$ of 2.5 is used, i.e., 1000 vppm of NH_3 , the residual NH_3 in the deNO_x zone effluent, per Table II, is 497.5 vppm; to remove 1400 moles of SO_2 quantitatively as $(\text{NH}_4)_2 \text{SO}_3$, 2800 vppm of NH_3 will be required. Since about 500 vppm are already in the gas, only about 2300 vppm additional ammonia has to be added to accomplish the SO_x removal.

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TABLE II

Flue gas conditions for this calculation:

Temperature range	1900 to 1500°F
Pressure	1.0 atmosphere
Residence time	0.2 sec
Initial NO _x	400 vppm
Excess O ₂	4.2%
H ₂ O	8.6%
SO ₂	1400 vppm

NH₃ Injection Rate

$\frac{\text{NH}_3}{\text{NO}_{xi}} \text{ (mole/l)}$	<u>% deNO_x</u>	<u>Residual NH₃, vppm</u>
.25	22.1	1.5
.5	41.9	12.9
.75	59.5	30.8
1.0	74.2	59.4
1.25	85.6	99.6
1.50	92.6	156.4
2.00	97.2	317.3
2.50	98.5	497.5
3.00	98.9	687.5
3.50	99.1	879.0
4.00	99.3	1076.0
4.50	99.3	1272.1
5.50	99.4	1666.6

(1) NO_{xi} = Initial NO_x

NOTE : Temperatures in °F can be converted to equivalent °C
by subtracting 32 and then dividing by 1.8.

CLAIMS:

1. A combination denitrogenation and desulfurization process which comprises the steps of:

(a) contacting a gaseous mixture (e.g., a combustion effluent) comprising nitrogen oxides and sulfur oxides in the presence of oxygen and in the absence of a catalyst, with ammonia in a molar amount equal to the sum of about 1.0 to about 3.0 times the moles of said nitrogen oxides plus about 0.01 to about 2.0 times the moles of said sulfur oxides to reduce said nitrogen oxides to nitrogen, at a temperature ranging from about 1300 to about 2200°F (704.4 to 1204.4°C);

(b) passing the gaseous effluent resulting from step (a) comprising said nitrogen, said sulfur oxides and unreacted ammonia to a gas desulfurization zone maintained at desulfurization conditions, including a temperature ranging from about 100 to about 400°F (37.7 to 204.4°C), to react said sulfur oxides with ammonia at a molar ratio of at least 1 mole of ammonia per mole of said sulfur oxides to produce a gaseous effluent and an ammonium salt of an acid of sulfur; and

(c) recovering said ammonium salt.

2. The process of claim 1 wherein said ammonia in step (a) is present in a molar amount ranging from the sum of about the moles of said nitrogen oxides plus 0.02 times the moles of said sulfur oxides to the sum of 2.5 times the moles of said nitrogen oxides plus the moles of said sulfur oxides.

3. The process of claim 1 or claim 2 wherein additional ammonia is added to step (b) to supplement said unreacted ammonia.

4. The process of any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein in step (b) the total amount of ammonia present ranges from about 1.0 to about 2.0 moles of ammonia per mole of sulfur oxides.

5. The process of any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein in step (a) said temperature ranges from about 1600 to about 2200°F (871.1 to 1204.4°C).

6. The process of any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein in step (a) said gaseous mixture is contacted with said ammonia and with an additional reducing agent and wherein said temperature in step (a) ranges from about 1300 to about 1600°F (704.4 to 871.1°C).

7. The process of any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein in step (b) said desulfurization conditions include a temperature ranging from about 100 to about 200°F (37.8 to 93.3°C).

8. The process of any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein said oxygen in step (a) is present in an amount ranging from about 0.1 to about 20 volume percent based on the volume of said gaseous mixture.

9. The process of any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein said recovered ammonium salt is either: (a) heated to a temperature ranging from about 500 to about 3000°F (260 to 1648.8°C) to produce elemental sulfur, or (b) decomposed at a temperature ranging from about 225 to 800°F (107.2 to 426.7°C) into a gaseous mixture comprising ammonia and sulfur oxides and, subsequently, the resulting sulfur oxides and ammonia are reacted at a temperature ranging from about 500 to about 3000°F (260 to 1648.8°C) to produce elemental sulfur.

10. The process of any one of claims 1 to 9 wherein said recovered ammonium salt comprises ammonium sulfite and wherein said ammonium sulfite is subjected to oxidation to form ammonium sulfate.

11. The process of any one of claims 1 to 10 wherein the total molar amount of ammonia added to both steps (a) and (b) will range from about 1.0 to 2.5 times the sum of the total number of moles of said nitrogen oxides and said sulfur oxides.

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(54) Process for removing NO_x and SO_x from a gaseous mixture.

(57) A combination gas denitrogenation and desulfurization process is provided in which a gaseous mixture comprising NO_x, SO_x and O₂ is reacted with excess NH₃ to reduce the NO_x to N₂ and the resulting gaseous effluent comprising the unreacted ammonia and SO_x is passed to a gas desulfurization zone to form an ammonium salt of an acid of sulfur which can be recovered and used as such or converted to elemental sulfur.

EP 0 232 976 A3



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

0232976

Application Number

EP 87 30 0224

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 3)
A	DE-A-2 852 336 (MASCHINENFABRIK BUCKAU R. WOLF AG) * whole document *	1-3,8	B 01 D 53/34
A,D	US-A-4 507 269 (A.M. DEAN et al.) * claims 1,6 *	1	
A,D	US-A-4 051 225 (S. SHIGA et al.) * claim 1 *	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.3)
			B 01 D 53/00
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search BERLIN		Date of completion of the search 21-03-1989	Examiner BERTRAM H E H
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application. L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document.			